

April 3, 2013
Mary D. Thompson, 90

Mary D. Thompson, 90, Aberdeen, died at her home, Wednesday, March 27, 2013 of chronic leukemia of blood and bone marrow.

Her memorial service was Monday, April 1, 2013 at Plymouth Congregational Church, Aberdeen, with Pastor Jill Warner officiating. Inurnment will follow at a later date in Groton Union Cemetery, with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton, in charge of arrangements.

Mary was born November 10, 1922 on a farm south of Groton, to Theodore and Josephine Simonson, the seventh of nine children. She attended Hanson 25-1 Rural School and then Ferney School for three years. She graduated from Groton High School, with honors in May 1940. She attended Northern State Teachers College for a one-year rural teaching course. She helped pay her way by waiting tables at the Lincoln Dining Hall, where she met Robert Thompson. After teaching at Hanson 25-1 two years, she and Robert were married May 29, 1943, at the Groton Presbyterian Church.

After their wedding, they lived at Pierpont, SD, where Robert was principal for two years. They then moved to Amherst, where he was superintendent for three years, before he became a US history and government teacher at Northern, Aberdeen, where he taught for 39 years.

Mary was a "Stay at Home Mom," but she did volunteer work at School of Hope several years. She also was a volunteer at Avera St. Luke's for 36 years, and she was a volunteer leader at a women's exercise class at the Parks and Recreation Building for 39 years. She was an active member of Plymouth Congregational Church, since December 1950, serving as an officer and committee member until her health kept her from participating. In 2002, she was named "First Lady of Aberdeen."

She is survived by two sisters Elaine Lorenz, Downing Wis., and Janice Nesheim, Hazelwood, Mo.; three children, Bill (Anne) Thompson, Sioux Falls; Mary Jo, Alexandria, Minn., and Paul Thompson, St. Paul, Minn.; three grandchildren, Geoff, Englewood, Colo.; Sarah, Washington DC, and Sonja, St. Paul; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert, who died of lung cancer June 2, 2011; her parents, Ted and Josie Simonson; two brothers, Jack and Don Simonson; three sisters, Harriet Lee, Jean Amonson and Dorothy Fiedler; and one sister, Lois, in infancy.

Memorial gifts may be given to Meals on Wheels or Plymouth Congregational Church, which had a special place in her heart, having served on the Building Committee for seven years!

